

Torrance, California
December 23, 1947

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, December 23, 1947, at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. Absent: Councilmen: Buxton.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held December 9, 1947, and the Minutes of a Special Meeting held December 17, 1947, be approved as written. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A statement was read from the General Petroleum Corporation showing gross receipts derived from Franchise Ordinance No. 179 and County Franchise Ordinance No. 781 for the period November 1, 1946 to December 31, 1947, and enclosing their check for \$555.09. Matter of record.

A communication was read from 11833-8 Technocracy Inc. requesting permission to rent the Civic Auditorium for the evening of December 31, 1947 for a New Year's Eve Dance and Party.

Councilman Tolson moved that Technocracy Inc. be permitted the use of the Auditorium on the specified date at the regular rental fee. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Oliver O. Clark and Robert A. Smith, Attorneys for Sunhaven Properties, Inc., stating that their client is in a position to close negotiations for the construction of 350 to 400 dwelling units in the Hollywood Riviera district, providing arrangements can be made for the vacation of a substantial portion of the Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway upon which the property abuts, and requesting an opportunity of presenting the matter before the City Council.

As the attorneys had not arrived, the matter was held over for discussion during Oral Communications.

A communication was read from the Shoestring Community Association requesting a change in the present regulations regarding stops of the Torrance Municipal busses on Carson Street through the Shoestring Strip.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the communication be referred to the Manager of the Municipal Bus Lines for action. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication, addressed to the Chamber of Commerce from Mr. C. N. Emmet, owner of the El Prado Furniture Store, was read stating that the sidewalk in front of his store, which was once a driveway and now no longer in use, is in an unsafe condition. He suggested that the curbing be completed across this opening and expressed his willingness to pay half the cost of repairing it with the city.

Councilman Jackson moved that the communication be referred to the Engineering Department for recommendation at the next Council meeting. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. L. E. Moncrief requesting permission to place a small two wheel trailer on his property at 18319 So. Western Avenue, explaining that it will be used for sleeping purposes only.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the communication be referred to the Building Inspector for checking and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from R. S. Tilton, 2326 - 230th Street, requesting permission for his cousins to park their house trailer on his acre of ground, which is part of the Burns-MacDonald Oil lease, because of the housing shortage.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the communication be referred to the Building Inspector for checking and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from P. O. Harding, District Engineer, Division of Highways, in reply to the City's request for larger school zone signs on Highway 101 at the Ward Street crossing and request for pedestal school crossing signs in the center of the highway. The letter stated that the Division of Highways' policy, relative to signs, conforms to the regulations as set forth in the Uniform Sign Manual as approved by the American Association of State Highway Officials, and as the Manual approves the size of the present sign, a larger sign was not recommended. In answer to the City's request for a pedestal type sign, the Division of Highways explained that the State will not assume liability in connection with such installation; but upon receipt of a request for an encroachment permit and a \$5,000.00 bond relieving the State of all responsibility, a permit will be issued for such a sign.

Councilman Tolson moved that the communication be referred to the Council and City Attorney for recommendation at the next meeting. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A Petition for Change of Zone filed by R. R. Ball, Case No. 106, was read.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Petition be referred to the Planning Commission for recommendation. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Ralph Perkins, Street Superintendent, concerning the replacement of John S. Tolson, in the Park Department, with an employee from the lay-off list, as required by the Civil Service Commission, and outlining the nature of Mr. Tolson's work. Mr. Perkins recommended that this work be discontinued until the summer, when it will be resumed by the regular caretaker.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Council concur in the Street Superintendent's recommendation, and that the matter of Mr. Tolson's re-employment be referred to the City Attorney for his recommendation at the next council meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Assistant City Engineer Patrick with reference to the petition for grading and paving of Apple Street and that it be made a through street from Plaza del Amo to Sepulveda Boulevard. He explained that at present the city is placing an oil road-mixed surface on Apple Avenue between Santa Fe and Lincoln Avenues, but that an extension from Santa Fe to Sepulveda Boulevard is impossible without first obtaining a right-of-way through Block 300 of Tract 1952. He suggested that the property owners provide a right-of-way sixty feet in width, with a suitable turn-around at the south edge of Lots 3 and 7 in Block 300. A report of that portion of Apple Avenue between Lincoln and Washington Avenues is being withheld pending a further check of this area.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Assistant City Engineer, and that the Petitioners be notified of this action. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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A communication was read from Assistant City Engineer Patrick stating that at a meeting held December 10, 1947, the City Planning Commission had approved a tentative sub-division Tract Map No. 15157, located at the northwest corner of 174th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard, submitted by Southwest Properties, Inc., and recommending that the Council concur in this action.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the City Planning Commission. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Assistant City Engineer Patrick stating that at a meeting held December 23, 1947, the City Planning Commission had approved a tentative Sub-division Tract Map No. 15211, located along the east side of Palos Verdes Parkway from Calle Miramar to the City of Torrance and Palos Verdes city limits, submitted by Sunhaven Properties, Inc., and recommending that the City Council concur in this action.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the City Planning Commission. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Olson, Plumbing Contractor, 13501 Inglewood Avenue, Hawthorne, stating that an overcharge had been made on Sewer Permit No. 2202 and requesting a refund of \$16.75.

Councilman Jackson moved that a refund of \$16.75 be granted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Buxton.

The request of Mr. Derrell H. Harline, 24255 Los Codona Avenue, for a refund of \$10.00 on his unused Building Permit fee had been referred sometime ago to former City Engineer Jain for recommendation. Mr. Jain recommended that a refund of \$8.00 be made to Mr. Harline, the balance of the fee being retained to cover the time spent in checking of plans and routine inspections of the job.

Councilman Jackson moved that a refund of \$8.00 be granted Mr. Harline. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Buxton.

A communication was read from City Judge Willett requesting that a check for \$15.00 be made payable to R. N. Herman, who deposited bail for defendant Ora F. Braden, Case No. 2725.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Council concur in Judge Willett's request. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Buxton.

A communication was read from Assistant City Engineer Patrick recommending that William C. Schaefermeyer be granted an extension of sixty days on his trailer permit, pending the completion of his residence at 23747 Eshelman Avenue, and that he be notified that another extension will not be granted.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of Assistant City Engineer Patrick. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1880

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE IMPROVEMENT BY THE STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OF THAT PORTION OF HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD EXTENDING FROM REDONDO BOULEVARD TO THE PALOS VERDES.

Councilman Tolson moved that Resolution No. 1880 be adopted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Buxton.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 398

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 96 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO DRUNKENNESS AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT".

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council's prior motion of December 9, 1947 adopting Ordinance No. 398 for first reading, be rescinded. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Buxton.

Mayor Sherfey explained that Ordinance No. 398 had been referred to City Attorney Smith for study and recommendation and asked for his opinion at this time.

Attorney Smith replied that this ordinance is not an arbitrary or unreasonable restriction of personal liberty, but it is a valid exercise of the lease of power of the Council. He did not question its constitutionality. He explained that the ordinance did not in any way by its provisions assist the Chief of Police or the arresting officer in the discharge of their duties. He contended that because of its language, if construed legally, a conviction under this ordinance would be difficult. He continued, saying the ordinance does not give to the Chief of Police the right of entry for the purpose of making an arrest; it does not in any respect change the existing law insofar as violation of the ordinance is concerned. He stated that the proposed ordinance has been misinterpreted, but that by a careful reading of it, it is quite evident there are no conditions which it imposes that are not already imposed by the general law and our own ordinances, except in its wording as it relates to, "any private premises to the annoyance of any other person". He said that if the ordinance were in force and effect, any private citizen who might be present when a violation of the law occurred in his presence could make the arrest. However, if the Chief of Police went to a home where the act or annoyance has been committed, he could not make an arrest unless the annoyance is committed in his presence. If the words "annoyance" and "willfully" were omitted it would strengthen the ordinance, but it would not serve any purpose. Attorney Smith recommended that the ordinance be dropped.

Clerk Bartlett presented for first reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 399

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316, RECLASSIFYING ALL OF TRACT NO. 10306, FROM AN A-1 (LIGHT AGRICULTURAL) DISTRICT TO AN R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) DISTRICT; EXCEPTING LOTS 2 AND 3, BLOCK G, AND LOTS 19 AND 20, BLOCK A OF SAID TRACT.

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 399 be dispensed with. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that Ordinance No. 399 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Buxton.

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Councilman Jackson read a reply from Assistant City Engineer Patrick to the request for the City to grade Earl Street from Sepulveda Boulevard to 230th Street. He advised that this street is not dedicated but a private street which would have to be deeded to the City before any monies could be expended. He did not recommend the expenditure of any monies for the grading of this street because at the present time there are only four houses on the street.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of Engineer Patrick. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Jackson read a communication from Assistant City Engineer Patrick in regard to the request of Mr. Richard P. Sinclair for the removal of broken glass and other debris along Border Avenue, between Torrance Boulevard and the Columbia Steel Plant. He advised that this would be taken care of as soon as help is available.

Councilman Jackson moved that this request be referred back to Engineer Patrick to ascertain when this debris can be removed. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Jackson read a communication from Assistant City Engineer Patrick in regard to the request by the Domanco Company for the resurfacing of 223rd Street, between Abalone Street and Western Avenue. He stated that as this street will carry considerable traffic, and by nature of the soil being sand, it will be necessary to place at least a four inch decomposed granite base with an asphalt surface; the estimate for this work being \$1760.00.

Councilman Jackson moved that the City Clerk be requested to write to Mr. Reed H. Parkin of the Domanco Company, requesting him to meet with the Council for the purpose of discussing this matter further. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that William H. Murphey be appointed Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, on probation, at a salary of \$350.00 per month, effective January 1, 1948; that his salary be increased to \$400.00 per month at the completion of his probationary period; and that he be granted \$35.00 per month automobile expense. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Buxton.

At this time Mr. Oliver O. Clark, attorney for Sunhaven Properties, Inc., stated briefly that his client had negotiated the purchase of land through which runs a parkway; and that they proposed the construction of numerous dwellings on that portion of its property lying easterly of Hollywood Riviera Boulevard from Miramar to Palos Verdes and easterly up to Calle Mayor, providing arrangements can be made for the vacation of a substantial portion of the parkway upon which said property abuts. He asked that the Council give an expression of their wishes concerning the 225 foot parkway so that his client can move rapidly forward with the development of its plans.

Mr. Clark explained that in the event the Council decides to vacate a portion of the parkway this land becomes vested in the owners of the adjoining property.

Assistant City Engineer Patrick stated that if a portion of the parkway is to be vacated that the Sunhaven Properties, Inc. improve the street in accordance with the City's specifications, and that the completion of the proceedings be withheld until they show they are acting in good faith. Mr. Clark agreed with Mr. Patrick's statement.

After some discussion, Mayor Sherfey announced that a meeting be held with the Council and Planning Commission on January 6, 1948, at 8:00 p.m. to discuss the matter further.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$94.67 be made for payment to Lund Company, Insurance Brokers, for first

anniversary premium covering money and securities. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Buxton.

Mayor Sherfey announced that the terms of office of John Salm and J. W. Crowther, members of the Planning Commission, expired December 13, 1947, and moved that they be reappointed for a term of four years. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation of \$500.00 be made to the 20-30 Club, sponsors of the Torrance Tournament of Roses Association, to help defray the cost of constructing a float by said organization for participation in the coming New Year's Tournament of Roses; the 20-30 Club to reimburse the City in the above amount when the money is available. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Buxton.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the complaints received regarding "too many stop signs" be discussed further with the entire Council and the Chief of Police for report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey introduced Mr. George W. Stevens announcing that he will be Administrator for the City of Torrance beginning January 1, 1948.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Councilman Tolson moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Buxton.

At 9:40 p.m., upon motion of Councilman Gilbert and seconded by Councilman Jackson, which was carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned.

A. H. Barthel

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

John H. Sherfey Jr.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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